



# Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Coordinating Council<sup>1</sup> Update

**District: Aroostook**

**Date: March 1, 2010**

Last DCC meeting conducted 12/08/09. Next DCC meeting scheduled to occur 3/30/2010. No full group meetings conducted in the time since last report.

Basic format of the proposed Aroostook District document reviewed with suggestions made and agreed upon by the group. Completion of this working document is among the long term goals of the membership.

Short term goal of addressing a minimum of 1 of the LPHSA findings. Through a gap identification exercise conducted in September, and further discussion of board readiness to act upon findings in a timely manner, it was decided that the group will begin work on a public health communication plan. A communication subcommittee has been identified and DCC members have been asked to conduct research about Public Information Officers located within individual organization in order to report back.

Ongoing or upcoming projects or priority issues:

- H1N1 mid-course review scheduled to occur in the hour prior to the next scheduled DCC meeting.
- Public Health Forum scheduled to occur 3/30/2010; discussion to include district performance reports.
- Continued recruitment of underrepresented groups to address specific DCC goals, potentially for ad hoc groups or subcommittees.
- The Communication plan development has been identified as a project which will be undertaken by the DCC; beginning with the formation of an action oriented subcommittee.

Local Public Health Assessment EPHS 4 Community Partnerships

- Possible Action Step: Assess effectiveness of current partnerships and strategic alliances to Strengthen and improve capacity
  - Develop a district wide communication strategy for promoting public health and communication action team.
- EPHS 3 Inform, Educate and Empower Individuals and Communities
  - 3.2 Development of health communication plans

Organizations represented at meeting(s):

Healthy Maine Partnerships  
Hospitals  
Mental Health / Substance Abuse Agency  
Community Action Program  
College health centers  
Aroostook EMA  
Aroostook Red Cross  
Me CDC, Epidemiology  
Me CDC, Public Health Nursing  
LHO  
Tribal Liaison  
Community Representative  
Battered Women's Project  
Aroostook Regional Transportation



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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In-district or multi-district collaborations:
Issues or topics to be addressed by SCC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Guidance on outline for District Public Health Improvement Plan</li><li>• Ongoing advocacy and support for DCC resources and further codification of infrastructure</li><li>• Communication re: upcoming legislative initiatives impacting Districts</li></ul>
Other district issues (external to the DCC) that impact public health <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Request to abandon railroad tracks north of Millinocket</li><li>• Continued struggles at Fraser Papers in Madawaska</li><li>• District facing large <i>potential</i> substance abuse prevention cuts</li></ul>

### <sup>1</sup>Sec. 5. 22 MRSA c. 152

A district coordinating council for public health shall:

1. Participate as appropriate in district-level activities to help ensure the state public health system in each district is ready and maintained for accreditation;
2. Provide a mechanism for district-wide input to the state health plan under Title 2, section 103;
3. Ensure that the goals and strategies of the state health plan are addressed in the district; and
4. Ensure that the essential public health services and resources are provided for in each district in the most efficient, effective and evidence-based manner possible.